

*TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2006*

The meeting was called to order at 6:45pm. Selectmen present were: Janet Smith and Wes Moore. James McIlroy joined the meeting in progress. Others present were: Jeff Feenstra, Dwight Davis, and Bill Davis of the Cable Committee; Gerry Kalish; Larry Shaw, Building Inspector; and Jamie Thompson, John Hayden, Mark Bouzianis, and Mike Sununu of the Budget Advisory Committee.

There were no department reports.

The current contract with Comcast for cable expires in April, 2007 and now is the time for negotiations on a new contract. Verizon suspended negotiations statewide for cable. Members of the Cable Committee will see if there are any other companies providing cable in the area who would be interested in serving the Town of Newfields.

Dwight stated that Portsmouth is trying to put together a group of Towns in the area to negotiate a better contract with Comcast. Dwight will ask if Newfields can join the group.

Dwight also has a contact with Verizon and he will speak with that person for advice on what to look for in the new contract and what leverage the Town has.

It was asked that if the Town stays with Comcast, would they make the local channel (Channel 22) in Exeter available to Newfields residents. Many residents would like access to the Channel 22 for information on the School District and School Sports.

James suggested that the Committee gather the following information:

- Process and timing
- Leverage
- Points and items to negotiate
- Other options

He suggested that information be gathered from Portsmouth on joining their group contract, from Verizon even though they are not providing cable at this time, from Comcast, and to utilize the New Hampshire Local Government Center via the Selectmen or Nancy for any legal questions.

The Cable Commission members agreed to do some fact finding and report

back to the Selectmen on September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.

Gerry Kalish brought a Citizen's Petition for mosquito control to the Board earlier this year. The Petition was received too late for a Warrant Article in 2006 and needs to be re-worked in order to be placed on the ballot in 2007 as a Warrant Article. The Selectmen advised Gerry that he must have a specific dollar amount and must clearly state the purpose of the Petition. They suggested to him that he return the revised petition to the Board in early December. Petitioned articles must be presented to the Selectmen no later than the fifth Tuesday prior to the meeting, and must be added to the warrant if signed by 25 or more voters. Petitioned articles cannot be altered or amended by the Selectmen before going on the warrant except to put the petition in the form of a question.

The Petition will ask the residents to approve the installation of bat houses in Newfields in order to reduce the number of mosquitoes. According to Gerry, each bat can eat 600 mosquitoes per hour. Bats would not be imported into Town, but bats currently in Newfields would re-locate to the bat houses. The bat houses have specific requirements and the number and placement of the houses would be determined by an environmentalist.

Larry Shaw came to the meeting at the Selectmen's request. They asked him to explain the process from start to finish for installing an in-ground pool. Larry was asked if he did an inspection for a pool fence after a pool installation was completed and he said he does not because there is an Ordinance for a pool fence. Ordinances are enforced by the Selectmen, not the Building Inspector.

Janet made a motion that the Building Inspector (currently Larry Shaw) complete a final inspection on all new swimming pool installations to make sure that a permanent fence is installed and meets the swimming pool fence requirements. The Building Inspector would report any violations to the Selectmen so that the Selectmen can enforce the Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Wes and the motion passed with all in favor.

The inspection of current pool fences will be discussed at a later meeting.

Larry stated there are Building Permits issued for the current work being done at 16 Swamscott Street.

Four members of the Budget Advisory Committee attended the Selectmen's Meeting. They asked that the Selectmen send a letter to all Department Heads asking for their cooperation with the Budget Advisory Committee. The Selectmen agreed to comply with the request. All Town Departments must submit a fully disclosed budget to the BAC.

There is no chairman or head of the BAC – one person usually facilitates the meeting, but all members are equal.

Nancy will forward a Chart of Accounts to the BAC for their use in completing each department's budget.

Any request for an increase in a department budget will have to be backed up by documentation and the benefit to the Town for granting such an increase.

The Selectmen have the final approval on the Budget. They do not have to accept the recommendations of the Committee, but should keep in mind that the Committee is doing all of the research on behalf of the Selectmen and try to arrive at a realistic budget number.

The BAC will work with the departments on separating the Capital Improvement Project items from the regular budget.

The BAC believes that 90% of the department budgets will be complete by the end of October. The Town's larger department budgets will require more time to review.

The BAC will meet on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> and will report to the Selectmen after each meeting.

Wes made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 5, 2006 meeting as amended. Janet seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

With regard to the Personnel Plan, Janet stated that Exeter includes elected officials in their Plan and feels Newfields should do the same.

At 9:30pm the meeting went into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3III to discuss correspondence from the Town Attorney marked "Attorney/Client privileged."

At 9:50pm the meeting went back into public session.

The potential junkyard was inspected by the Selectmen and discussion has been tabled to a later meeting.

Brian Hart of the Rockingham Land Trust sent the original Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program agreement to the Selectmen. The Selectmen took copies with them to review and will discuss in detail at next week's meeting.

Checks were signed.

The Disabled Exemption Application was tabled as the Selectmen require more information to make a decision.

The Household Hazardous Waste Day on October 7<sup>th</sup> was discussed. James cannot attend, but Janet and Wes will attend.

The Selectmen were advised that the Dispatch Contract had been signed by the Town of Newmarket and returned to Newfields.

Nancy was asked to give copies of the Competitive Local Grant Application to the Police Department, Emergency Management Department, and the Fire Department. The Community Resource Network is looking for a donation – this will be considered for 2007 along with other Health and Human Resource requests.

The invitation to the Bridge Dedication from the Squalus Memorial Chapter was read.

Primex inquired about adjusted payrolls for the Town's Workers' Compensation renewal insurance policy for 2007. The Selectmen agreed to a 1% increase in wages from the 2006 estimated wages for insurance purposes.

The request to conditionally accept Overlook Drive was tabled until Reuben Hull can attend a meeting.

At 10:10pm Wes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by James and the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer